

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 16-17, 19-21, and 23 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 16-17, 19-21, and 23 are pending and under consideration.

Applicants have timely filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with this Amendment, including the filing fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the finality of any Office action and enter this Amendment for consideration under 37 CFR 1.114.

I. Interview

Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the telephone interview granted by the Examiner on October 16, 2007. During the interview, further amending the independent claims to overcome the cited prior art was discussed. Based on this discussion, the Examiner and the undersigned were able to come to an agreement regarding wording of the independent claims that would be sufficient to overcome the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants have submitted the following amendments and remarks in accordance with this discussion. Other points raised during the interview are also included in the comments below.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10-11, 13, 16-17, 19-21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,666,555) in view of Hibi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,546,191).

Neither Okazaki et al. nor Hibi et al. discuss or suggest:

image recording means for recording on a medium, at different time points, a plurality of moving picture image contents and image data including sound data from a video input;

and

image displaying means for displaying at the same time in one screen a plurality of the moving picture image contents recorded at the different time points and read out from said data storage means;

and

information processing means for controlling said data storage means, said image displaying means, and said sound selecting means in such a manner that a plurality of moving picture image contents recorded in said image recording means at different time

- points are read from said data storage means and displayed in a single screen by said image displaying means and the sound designated by the user is reproduced,

as recited in claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides for recording, *on a medium*, and simultaneously displaying *a plurality of moving picture image contents* from a *single video input*, wherein each of the plurality of image contents are image contents of the video input that were recorded *at different time points of the video input*. In this manner, the invention of claim 1 provides for displaying, on the same screen, a group of moving images reproduced simultaneously from a plurality of arbitrarily selected portions of a single moving image content. Thus, the invention of claim 1 makes it possible to efficiently search for a desired scene from long-term moving image contents.

In contrast, Okazaki et al. only discloses simultaneously reproducing image data from *multiple sources* on a display screen. Okazaki et al. does not disclose displaying, on the same screen, a group of images reproduced simultaneously from a plurality of selected portions of a *single moving image content*. The Examiner concedes that Okazaki et al. does not teach using the time points for image contents. The Examiner attempts to make up for the deficiency in Okazaki et al. with Hibi et al. However, Hibi et al., as relied on by the Examiner, merely discloses the use of *single-image data frames* for identifying different portions of a recorded program in a single display screen. In other words, Hibi et al. merely provides for *still images* to be used as bookmarks to identify the starting location of a segment of recorded video. Hibi et al. does not provide for recording and simultaneously displaying a plurality of *moving picture image contents* from a single video input, wherein each of the plurality of image contents are image contents of the video input that were recorded at different time points of the video input.

Since neither Okazaki et al. nor Hibi et al., nor the combination thereof, discuss or suggest all of the features of the invention of claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-5 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the cited prior art. Therefore, claims 4-5 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Okazaki et al. nor Hibi et al., nor the combination thereof, discuss or suggest:

recording on a medium, at different time points, a plurality of moving picture image contents and image data including sound data from a video input by an image recording means;

and

displaying, at the same time in one screen, the plurality of the moving picture image contents recorded at the different time points and read out from said data storage;

and

controlling said data storage, said displaying, and said selecting in such a manner that a plurality of moving picture image contents recorded at different time points are read from said data storage and displayed in a single screen and the sound designated by the user is reproduced,

as recited in claim 7, so that claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 10-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 7, and include all the features of claim 7, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the cited prior art. Therefore, claims 8 and 10-11 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Okazaki et al. nor Hibi et al., nor the combination thereof, discuss or suggest:

record on a medium, at different time points, a plurality of moving picture image contents and image data including sound data from a video input;

and

display, at the same time in one screen, the plurality of the moving picture image contents recorded at the different time points and read out from said data storage;

and

control said data storage, said image displaying, and said sound selecting in such a manner that a plurality of moving picture image contents recorded at different time points are read from said data storage and displayed in a single screen and the sound designated by the user is reproduced,

as recited in claim 13, so that claim 13 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-17 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 13, and include all the features of claim 13, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the cited prior art. Therefore, claims 16-17 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Okazaki et al. nor Hibi et al., nor the combination thereof, discuss or suggest:

an image recorder recording on a medium, at different time points, a plurality of moving picture image contents and image data including sound data from a video input;

and

an image display displaying at the same time in one screen a plurality of the moving picture image contents recorded at the different time points and read out from said data storage;

and

an information processor controlling said data storage, said image display, and said selector in such a manner that a plurality of moving picture image contents recorded in said image recorder at different time points are read from said data storage and displayed in a single screen by said image display and the sound designated by the user is reproduced,

as recited in claim 19, so that claim 19 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-21 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 13, and include all the features of claim 19, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the cited prior art. Therefore, claims 20-21 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Okazaki et al. nor Hibi et al., nor the combination thereof, discuss or suggest:

recording on a medium, at different time points, a plurality of moving picture image contents and image data including sound data from a video input;

and

displaying, at the same time in one screen, the plurality of the moving picture image contents recorded at the different time points and read out from said data storage;

and

controlling said data storage, said displaying, and said selecting in such a manner that a plurality of moving picture image contents recorded at different time points are read and displayed in a single screen and the sound designated by the user is reproduced,

as recited in claim 23. Therefore, claim 23 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

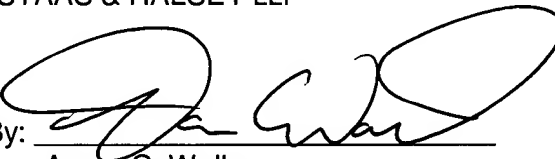
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10-26-07

By: 
Aaron C. Walker
Registration No. 59,921

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501